

On Korea's Bigeye Catch Limit: Need for Reevaluation

(Proposal submitted by Korea (Rep.))

Throughout the Intersessional Meetings of Panel 1 held in March, June and October 2023, Korea has consistently emphasized the need for a reevaluation of our catch limit. We consider it crucial to secure acknowledgement from CPCs regarding our proposed catch limit during the allocation discussion. To support our stance, we would like to present the rationale behind our legitimate catch limit of 1,337.4 t as the starting point for allocation discussion.

Recommendation 19-02 (Rec. 21-01, Rec. 22-01) para 4

- a) CPCs with catch limits greater than 10,000 t in para 3 of Rec. 16-01, shall apply a 21% reduction to those catch limits.
- b) CPCs that are not captured by (a) that have a recent average catch (or a catch limit in para 3 of Rec. 16-01) of greater than 3,500 t, shall apply a catch limit that is 17% less than their recent average catch or their catch limit in para 3 of Rec. 16-01.
- c) CPCs that have a recent average catch (or a catch limit in para 3 of Rec. 16-01) of between 1,000 t and 3,500 t shall apply a catch limit that is 10% less than their recent average catch (or catch limit in para 3 of Rec. 16-01).
- d) Those CPCs with recent average catch (or a catch limit in para 3 of Rec. 16-01) of less than 1,000 t are encouraged to maintain catch and effort at recent levels.

The box above shows the catch limit provision established in 2019. The highlighted and underlined texts are currently not included, but we believe they should have been incorporated to ensure consistency in the wording.

Korea should have been categorized under subparagraph c); however, due to an oversight, paragraph d) was applied to Korea. As a consequence, Korea had no choice but to reduce our catch limit from 1,486t to 1,000t, resulting in a significant reduction of 32.7% reduction, the largest among PA1 CPCs.

This situation is also clearly outlined in the Secretariat's paper (PA1_MAR_31) as follows:

According to Rec. 16-01 para 3, Korea has a BET catch limit of 1,486 t. Korea reports a catch limit of 1,000 t in its 2020 fishing plan. This limit is lower than the 10% reduction supposed to be applied according to Rec. 19-02 to a catch limit/average catch between 1,000 t and 3,500 t, as their actual quota was (1,486 t -10% = 1,337.4 t).

In this regard, Korea firmly asserts that our legitimate catch limit stands at 1,337.4 t and confirming this is an essential prerequisite for advancing any allocation discussions.